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NRIS LAUNCHES USER SURVEY ON WEBSITE
Project's goal to evaluate and improve web services

(HELENA)---For the second year, the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), has launched a user survey on its website. The brief survey, which will be in place through October 16, is designed to help NRIS evaluate and improve its services.

According to Jim Hill, NRIS director, "This information will be used to help us continue to provide web services that are most useful to government agencies, businesses, and the public for understanding, managing, and enjoying Montana's natural resources."

Visitors to http://nris.state.mt.us are asked to complete a brief survey, which focuses on the areas of:

- Frequency of use of NRIS web services
- Primary uses of NRIS information (conservation, economic development, recreation, etc.)
- Type of user (government, business, individual, etc.)
- Value of NRIS services to work and recreation-related activities

To complete the survey, visit this link:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=77718264425

Early poll results indicate over 50% of respondents use NRIS services on a daily or weekly basis; over 60% of respondents rate NRIS services as essential to their agency or business. Planning, conservation, research, and resource management are cited most often as ways users implement NRIS information.

NRIS responds to thousands of inquiries each month via its website, which provides various data, reports, maps, and on-line applications. These items help inform users about important issues facing Montanans, including: drought, wildfires, weed management, and plants/animals of concern. Website users can also learn more about fishing opportunities, bird watching, wildlife management, and water quality.

NRIS was established eighteen years ago by the Legislature. A division of the Montana State Library, NRIS acts as a clearinghouse for natural resource

information and provides expert assistance to link users with the best available information.

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